

SIX FLAGS NEW ENGLAND	
SUBJECT: RESTRICTED AREA & RIDE DANGER ZONE ENTRY PROGRAM	SAFETY REFERENCE MANUAL
SECTION: 41	
EFFECTIVE: January 2016	SUPERSEDES: ALL PREVIOUS
CFR #: TBD	

## 41.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of these areas and permit is to provide all authorized employees guidance for access into ***“Ride Perimeters, Ride Restricted Areas and Danger Zones”*** during operation of the ride.

## 41.2 SCOPE

This procedure applies to all authorized employees and contractors whose jobs require them to enter these areas during the rides operation. ***Note: Normal lock out tag out procedures supersede this program.***

## 41.3 DEFINITIONS

**Ride Perimeter** - The boundary that encompasses the entire footprint of a ride. The boundary fencing must at a minimum meet ASTM standards (defined as a fence or barricade that is 42" tall and meets the 4" ball requirement), have gate(s) with lock/keys, and have appropriate safety signage posted. The area inside is designated as restricted and unauthorized personnel are not permitted. Any personnel needing to access this area during rides operation must first notify OPS and Maintenance. ***See Ride Restricted Area and Track Area Access Plan. (pg.7)***

**Ride Restricted Area** - Area inside the ride perimeter which includes all areas under, adjacent and surrounding all components of a ride. The area is designated off limits to personnel without proper authorization and or training. Unauthorized personnel are not permitted.

**Ride Safety Envelope** - All rides have a predetermined clearance area ***“Ride Safety Envelope”*** surrounding all moving parts. Refer to manufacturer manuals for ride specific information.

**Danger Zone** - Designated area (predetermined clearance envelope surrounding all moving parts of a ride including low points) inside the ride restricted area that is off limits without a permit. This area must be secured by a fence/barrier that at a minimum is 6' and meets 4" ball test standards, have gate(s) with lock/keys, and have appropriate safety signage posted. Authorized employees must be trained on proper safety protocols including lock out procedures to enter the area. Unauthorized personnel are not permitted.

**Designated Pathways** - The pathways or areas within the restricted area of a ride that have been established for authorized personnel to use for specified and/or approved purposes.

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**Authorized Entry Supervisor** - the maintenance management person responsible for determining if qualified personnel and entry conditions are acceptable at the time a permit is requested. This person has the authority to decline or terminate request or permit at any time.

**Authorized Entrants** - a person or persons who is trained and is authorized to enter a ride danger zone as defined by maintenance management.

**Authorized Operators** - a person who is trained and is authorized to operate a ride, during an authorized access into a ride danger zone.

**Entry** - the approved action of a person or persons who passes through a secured opening into a ride danger zone to perform work, inspection or monitoring of ride.

**Dual Lock/Key System** – proper use of locking mechanism with two independent keys for access into danger zones. Approved FT Maintenance Management, FT Operations Director/Manager/Supervisors, Security (for overnight emergency only), and FT Safety Manager will have access to and maintain the lock/key. The Safety Manager will be responsible for administering the dual lock/key system, issuing keys to the necessary personnel, and tracking the keys that were distributed. Requests for additional keys must be submitted to your park’s Safety Manager, the Corporate Operations Liaison, and the Corporate VP of Safety and Risk Management for authorization before any keys can be issued.

**Entry Permit** - the form that must be completed prior to entry, which provides documentation, authorization signatures and reason for entry. (Appendix A).

**NOTE:** An entry supervisor may also serve as an authorized operator or as an authorized entrant, providing that person is trained and equipped as required by this procedure for each role he/she performs.

**Lockout/Tagout** - A specific work safety procedure or practice that safeguards employees from the unexpected powering or startup of machinery and equipment, or the release of hazardous energy during service or maintenance activities.

**Non-permit Ride Danger Zone** - Non permit danger zone entry is considered those situations where entry into the identified danger zone is required for regular or routine work by authorized entrants, such as lost article retrieval and maintenance inspection work. The work must be completed during times when the ride is not in operation and proper Lockout/ Tag-out procedures have been applied by trained authorized entrant personnel.

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An authorized entrant must be assigned the task of entry by an authorized entry supervisor. The authorized entry supervisor must ensure that the authorized entrant is properly trained and certified in all procedures involved in the task to be completed, including, but not limited to Danger Zone access procedures and Lockout/Tag-out procedures.

The authorized entry supervisor will unlock the appropriate gate lock either in the presence of the authorized entrant, or immediately prior to the authorized entrants arrival. This is to facilitate work being required at multiple rides.

The authorized entrant will complete lock out tag/out procedures before entry into the Danger Zone. Upon entry into the Danger Zone the authorized entrant will lock the gate behind them to insure no unknown person enters the zone. When the task is complete the authorized entrant will inspect the danger zone for unknown persons, inspect the fencing for security, ensure that the ride envelope is free from any tools, equipment or other objects that interfere with the ride envelope, and secure the gate with both locks. Before removing their lockout and tag, the authorized entrant will report to the authorized entrant supervisor that work is complete and the danger zone is secure. The authorized entry supervisor will then approve the removal of the lockout and tag.

**Permit-required Ride Danger Zone** - a permit is required at anytime entrance is needed into a predetermined ride danger zone during the rides operation

**Orange Safety Vests** – Will be worn upon entry of a restricted zone/area within the perimeter fencing of a roller coaster regardless of time of day, operational status of the ride or whether or not the ride is locked out (with the exception of the Winter Tear Down Season). This includes but is not limited to any Maintenance personnel or other authorized individual assigned to walk and inspect the tracks or devices outside of the station of the roller coaster. All safety/traffic vests need to meet requirements as specified by ANSI # 107-1999 category II or III.

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#### **41.4 RECOGNITION, IDENTIFICATION AND SAFEGUARDING OF ALL RIDE DANGER ZONES**

It shall be the duty of the Maintenance & Safety Departments to identify all ride danger zones within the park. Once all areas have been identified, the Safety Department must be notified and presented with a list. Each area will then be tested and reviewed by Maintenance and Safety as to the proper procedures for access to each specific location.

All identified ride restricted areas must have appropriate safety signage. Signage shall be visible and remain unblocked at all times. Signage should communicate the extreme danger associated with trespassing into restricted areas and that violators will be ejected and prosecuted. Each diagrammed area must be included in the Ops SOP's at each applicable ride.

All identified ride danger zones must be safeguarded by a minimum 6' high 4" ball test fence or barricade when possible. If an area cannot be secured it must be documented with justifications. The areas shall be secured by a lock and key system so that operations and maintenance personnel may gain approved access when needed.

Anytime permit required access into a ride danger zone is needed there will be a minimum of two authorized entrants prior to entry. (**Buddy System**)

When permit required ride danger zone work is being performed, the surrounding area shall be off limits to all those who are not directly involved in the job.

Any access into danger zones will require use of two keys. One key will belong to authorized staff and the other by approved FT Maintenance Management, FT Operations Director/Manager/Supervisors, Security (for overnight emergency), or Safety Manager. On non-permit required work approved FT Maintenance Management or FT Safety Manager will be responsible to ensure proper lock out procedures have been followed.

#### **41.5 PRE-ENTRY PREPARATION**

It is the responsibility of the Authorized Entry Supervisor to ensure that a pre-entry briefing is held and attended by the Authorized Entrants and Authorized Operator before each permit required ride danger zone job is started. Some key topics to discuss in this pre-entry briefing are:

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- A. The actual task or assignment to be completed.
- B. The identification and evaluation of all potential hazards involved.
- C. Possible rescue procedures and who to notify in the event of an accident.
- D. Prevention of unauthorized entry into permit-required ride danger zone while tasks are being performed.
- E. Tools and equipment to be used.
- F. Discuss “What If” situations.
- G. If required harnesses, lifelines and retrieval systems shall be readily available for use.
- H. Establish means of confirmed visual contact between authorized entrants and authorized operator prior to operating ride while authorized personnel are in ride danger zone. Radio communication is not to be used as the primary means of authorizing operation of a ride during a permit required ride danger zone procedure.
- I.

#### **41.6 AUTHORIZED ENTRY SUPERVISOR DUTIES**

- A. Understand the present and potential hazards of the ride danger zone.
- B. Verify and sign that all information has been filled out properly on the ride danger zone permit.
- C. Terminate entry if problems occur.
- D. Verify that rescue services are available and able to respond if needed.
- E. After entry is complete and area has been secured sign off on permit.

#### **41.7 AUTHORIZED ENTRANTS DUTIES**

- A. Understand the present and potential hazards of the ride danger zone.
- B. Obtain, sign and properly fill out ride danger zone permit from security. Ensure permit is reviewed and signed by authorized entry supervisor prior to entry.

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- C. Review ride safety envelope prior to entering ride danger zone.
- D. Establish visual contact with other authorized entrant and authorized operator prior to operation of ride while within ride danger zone.
- E. Notify authorized entry supervisor if a situation arises.
- F. Secure ride danger zone after task is complete.
- G. Return permit document to security after authorized entry supervisor has signed off on completion of required ride danger zone access.

#### **41.8 AUTHORIZED OPERATORS DUTIES**

- A. Understand the present and potential hazards of the ride danger zone.
- B. Sign off on ride danger zone permit.
- C. Never leave the main operators panel for any reason while personnel are inside the ride danger zone. If the authorized operator must leave the main operator panel, another trained authorized operator must replace him/her. Otherwise the ride needs to be locked out in accordance to proper lock out tag out procedures or the authorized entrants must vacate the ride danger zone.
- D. Establish visual contact with authorized entrants prior to operation of ride while authorized entrants are within ride danger zone.
- E. Maintain communication and have continuous awareness of the activities of the authorized entrants in the ride danger zone.
- F. Know the location of the nearest telephone to call for help.

#### **41.9 WRITTEN PERMIT PROGRAM**

A written permit program exists for entry into a ride danger zone, while the ride is in operation. The permit system ensures that the entry has been well planned, that all necessary parties have been notified and that all risks have been evaluated.

The Safety Department must be notified of ride danger zone entry and when necessary, should be in attendance at the work site to ensure that all possible precautions have been taken.

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The Safety Department will issue the permits. The permit is valid for one day only and must be turned in to the Safety Manager at the end of each day. If work is to be continued the following day a new permit will be issued. When issuing the permit, the Security Department logs the ride danger zone entry work on the Daily Radio Log and relays the information regarding the ride danger zone entry operation to relief Security personnel. The permit will be turned in to the Safety Department and be filed for one year.

The authorized entrants will request a permit from the Safety Department. The authorized entrants performing the work will fill out the permit and have it signed. The completed permit will be posted outside the area where the ride danger zone work is being performed in a conspicuous location. After completion of the work, the authorized entry supervisor is responsible for signing the completed ride danger zone entry work permit. The authorized entrants will return completed permit to Safety Manager. The dispatcher will record the job completion time on the base radio log and will relay the information regarding the completion of the ride danger zone work to relief personnel.

It is the responsibility of the authorized entry supervisor to ensure all permit conditions have been complied with. .

#### **41.10 TRAINING**

Initial and annual refresher training shall be provided to employees who have responsibilities dealing with any aspect of the Ride Danger Zone Entry Program. It is the responsibility of the Maintenance and Safety Department to coordinate any needed training. This training has been developed to provide employees with the necessary understanding, skills, and knowledge to safely perform ride danger zone entry operations. Refresher training will be conducted on an annual basis prior to park opening as part of the annual LOTO training and when an employee's duties change requiring restricted area/danger zone access.

#### **41.11 MANAGEMENT EVALUATION**

This program is reviewed annually and updated as needed. All employees training is documented and kept on file.

#### **41.12 OUTSIDE CONTRACTORS**

All outside contractors shall comply with this policy. **The Six Flags Theme Park Ride Danger Zone Entry Program** supersedes any other ride danger zone programs. Effective measures shall be taken to prevent inadvertent entry into any permit-required ride danger zone.

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All outside contractors shall be informed that entrance into any permit required ride danger zone requires a **Ride Danger Zone Permit**. The outside contractor shall be notified of all potential hazards associated with the ride danger zone work site. The Maintenance/Safety Department will determine if permit required access is needed into any or all ride danger zones.

#### **41.13 RIDE RESTRICTED AREA ACCESS PLAN**

##### **Pre-Opening Safety Checks**

Prior to entry all authorized personnel must don the approved orange safety vest.

Properly complete Lock out Tag out (LOTO) prior to inspection.

When entering a ride restricted areas through a locked entry always lock the gate after entering the area. During inspections check for any open gates or missing locks and immediately notify Operations of the situation for correction.

***Do not sign off the ride for operation until the lock/gate has been properly secured.***

After inspection is complete secure and lock your entry point.

##### **Entering a Ride Restricted Area During Ride Operation**

Prior to entry all authorized personnel must don the approved orange safety vest.

Call the main operator panel operator prior to entering a ride restricted area for inspection to confirm entrance acknowledgement.

After notification to main operator panel operator and ***prior to entering ride restricted area*** notify by radio your lead or supervisor that you are entering a secure ride perimeter or track area and that the main operator panel operator has been notified, also clearly state position and approximate area of ride to be inspected.

When inspection is complete and the entry point has been secured, notify main operator panel operator that you have cleared and secured the ride restricted area. After notification to the main operator panel operator contact your lead or supervisor to inform them that you have cleared and secured the ride restricted area and that the main operator panel operator has been notified.

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### **Contractor Access within a Ride Restricted Areas**

It is the responsibility of the operating department manager to assign a trained contact person to provide direction for authorized access within ride restricted areas.

Prior to entry all authorized personnel must don the approved orange safety vest.

Department contact personnel are responsible for Lock out Tag out (LOTO) on the ride prior to allowing entrance into the ride restricted area. The LOTO procedure is to be performed even during non operating days.

Department contact personnel are responsible to establish guidelines for contractors authorized access into ride restricted areas based on parks operating schedule.

(i.e. **contractors to be complete and out of area prior to 9:30 am. Any type of night shift work cannot begin until entire park sweep is complete.**)

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## **APPENDIX A**

### **RIDE DANGER ZONE PERMIT**

Ride Danger Zone Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose of Entry: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Permit Issued: \_\_\_\_\_

Time Permit Issued: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Entry Supervisor (start): \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Entrant: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Entrant: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Operator: \_\_\_\_\_

Known Hazards: \_\_\_\_\_

Steps Taken to Eliminate or Control Hazards: \_\_\_\_\_

Time of Entry: \_\_\_\_\_

Exit Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Entry Supervisor (completed): \_\_\_\_\_

Permit Issued By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Six Flags

**STATEMENT:**

Employee Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I affirm that I have read and understand the General Restricted Area Access Training document. I agree fully to comply with and abide by all rules per the restricted area access training. I will not enter any areas for which I am not authorized.

Employee Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_